

Dear YATA colleagues and friends,

I hereby inform you of my candidacy for the position of Vice President for Public Outreach for the YATA Executive Board of 2017.

When I first heard about YATA, I knew that I finally had found the one organization I belonged to. It was a unique forum for students, young professionals and cadets. We were all equally passionate about security, defence and foreign policy issues.

After a long political career in Norway, I could finally focus on the topics that always have engaged me the most. I got my first position as Vice President in the local branch YATA Bergen, and when I moved to the capital a year later I became International Officer in YATA Norway. Now I wish to take the next step, and contribute to a stronger organization on an international level. I have skills in communication, networking and political affairs. In the position of Vice President for Public Outreach, I will need all three of them.

YATA International is a great meeting place for youth with different perspectives and backgrounds. Security policy is not a subject that should be discussed only within one country's borders, these issues intervenes and involves all of our lives, if we live in Canada, Germany or small Norway.

And even though I come from a small country, YATA Norway is definitely not small. I am proud to say that I have been part of the team building our organization for the last two years. During the BREXIT-referendum in Great-Britain I arranged a study trip for the national board, visiting YATA England in London and the founders of ATA. And it was inspiring to meet YATA-members in a different context than huge events. The people is just one of the reasons why I want to be a part of the executive board this year: I want to learn about the different chapters challenges, interests and ideas to create a better organization.

I have always pursued a rich political organisational life alongside my studies in Political Geography. This has taught me how to use my time efficiently and constructively. I have worked abroad, at the Norwegian Embassy in Ankara, and in my capacity as international officer of the liberal party in Norway. These international experiences will be useful as Vice President of Public Outreach. I know how to get our message forward when reinforcing partnerships and representing our organization.

When working at the Norwegian Parliament, I developed an understanding of how political processes develop and are settled. I recently started working as a journalist in Norway's largest media house, Norwegian Broadcasting Cooperation. Prior to this I was a military press officer in the Armed Forces.

Throughout my political and military career, my abilities to present a convincing argument, to lead a discussion and to contribute to develop new policies within the field of foreign affairs and security, have been confronted and tested. I have learned from those experiences and now I want to contribute to YATA International.

I look forward to seeing you all again at the General Assembly in Canada!

Best wishes,

Sunniva Skjeggstad  
International Officer YATA Norway